ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A 3D model similar to the specified 3D model is retrieved from a plurality of 3D models stored as objects to be retrieved in a database by using various feature values calculated from the selected 3D model. At that time, when at least one of the selected 3D model and a subelement which is a part of the selected 3D model is specified as a retrieval key, the feature values of the subelements included in the 3D model specified as the retrieval key and data on information about the relationship between the subelements are acquired. In addition, the feature values of the subelements included in the 3D models stored as objects to be retrieved in the database and data on information about the relationship between the subelements are acquired. Then, the similarity between the 3D models to be retrieved and the 3D model acting as retrieval key is calculated using the acquired feature values about the subelements to be retrieved, the acquired data on information about the relationship between the subelements, the acquired feature values about the subelements of the retrieval key, and the acquired data on information about the relationship between the subelements. On the basis of the calculated similarity, the result of retrieval is displayed.